@school

CELEBRATE WITH US

Let us know about all your school activities and successes. Email your school news to editor@fairfieldadvance.com.au

New labs make learning fun at Cabramatta High

Nick Lalich gets a science lesson from Cabramatta High students Mai Nguyen and Kha Nguyen.

CABRAMATTA High School students have given their new science laboratories the thumbs up after taking part in physics and chemistry experiments on Monday.

The renovation, funded by the State Government, included the complete refurbishment of all four laboratories and improvements to safety features.

Year 12 students took part in hands-on science experiments, while year 9 students completed environment and susceptibility activities on an interactive white board.

Mayor Nick Lalich and acting School Education Director, Pat Marne,y were also on hand for the opening.

Year 12 student, Andrew Couch said the new labs made learning fun.

"The modern labs are more comfortable and make learning fun and it is a lot easier to do our experiments," he said.

Head science teacher Radhika Singh said the new classrooms were fantastic.

"New classrooms for the 21st century will provide our students with great experiences and assist them to achieve better outcomes," she said.

Cabramatta High School is a large school within a multicultural community. The school first opened in 1958, and since then, has been providing quality education to the students of Cabramatta and the neighbouring suburbs. Many of the students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

MB

The parents from Fairfield High School's Parent Cafe group made a garden during the course to help migrant parents access more resources. Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Parents dig school's approach

BRIAN KARLOVSKY

FAIRFIELD High is a long way from the streets of Baghdad where Saad Noon would drive his taxi between bombed cars to support his wife and two children.

But after completing the Parents Cafe program at Fairfield High, with his wife Sundus on the same campus where his children Oscar, 10, and Maral, 14, attend school, it's starting to feel like home.

The nine-week program is designed to help newly arrived parents adjust to Australia.

The program was so successful, the parents have built a garden to give something physical back to the school.

Mr Noon said when he arrived in Australia four months ago things were very difficult.

"People come here carrying packages of pain from their experience and painful memories," he said. "So people need to know about where the social gatherings are, about the structure in this country to help them to resettle."

Mr Noon said the program should be offered to every parent because it helped them understand the country.

"We got a lot of information about the education system and now we know our children are getting a good education and we understand the structure of the schooling system," he said.

Most of the parents taking part in the program have been living in Australia for less than a year.

Fairfield High principal, Robert Mulas said the parents have asked for more information about being good Australians after building the garden for the school.

Tell us what's happening at your school Email editor@fairfieldadvance.com.au

Patrician Brothers win debating shield

The Patrician Brothers senior debating team was undefeated. Picture: NICK ANDREAN

PATRICIAN Brothers debaters are on a high after taking out the prestigious Senior Debating Aggregate Shield.

The Patrician Brothers year 11 team, consisting of Ehren Heilman, Alex Moses, Christopher Duncan, and David Vu and the year 12 team, including John Giang-Nguyen, Andrew Tran, David Ngo, and Rajat Kumar were undefeated during the five debating rounds.

Both senior teams in the Debating Competitions had to win more rounds of debating than any other school in the competition to win the shield.

However, after winning the Senior Debating Shield neither team could go on to win the competition.

The year 12 team were knocked out in the elimination rounds. The year 11 team, though, continued their undefeated streak.

Year 11 debater Alex Moses said he was proud of the team.

"This is a feat that the debating teams and the school are very proud of, and once again Patrician Brothers College can say that they pride themselves on their students' ability to debate," he said.

@Cabramatta High

Cabramatta High School will play host to 2010 Sydney Peace Prize winner Dr Vandana Shiva on November 5. The distinguished physicist and environmentalist will be the special guest of a forum held to introduce the peace prize recipient to the students and public. Dr Shiva won the award in recognition of her courageous leadership of movements for social justice – the empowerment of women in developing countries, advocacy of the human rights and small farming communities and for her scientific analysis of environmental sustainability.

For more information call 9726 4282 or go cabramatta-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

@All schools

It's all about kids helping kids in the Share-A-Book project where students send books to Aboriginal children in the Outback. Each student selects a favourite book from home and shares it with the class. With the teacher, they choose one book and write a message of hope inside before it is sent to an indigenous community. Every student donates a gold coin and the funds go directly to the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's indigenous literacy programs. The foundation has partnered with SchoolAid this year so more children across Australia can be involved. Registration for the Share-A-Book project is through www.schoolaid.org.au or visit www.alnf.org.

@Building Ed Revolution

Opposition Eudcation spokesman Adrian Piccoli has accused the State Government of using Federal Government funds to make up for its own cuts to education spending. Mr Piccoli said the Building the Education Revolution fallout would continue to hurt Cabramatta and Fairfield school communities. Budget documents obtained by the NSW Liberals and Nationals through an Upper House call for papers reveal the NSW Department of Education spent $162 million less in capital expenditure this year when the Federal Government's BER funding component is taken into account. "When NSW signed up to the BER, they agreed to maintain spending on capital works projects," Mr Piccoli said.

AWARD WINNER 2010

Congratulations Fairfield High School – Intensive English Centre

2010 Schools First Seed Funding Award Winner

This local school has received $25,000 for their outstanding school and community partnership.

In 2010, 108 Australian schools will receive a share in $5.2 million as recognition for their significant work.

Schools First recognises that the education of young people rests on the shoulders of the entire community. That's why this national program rewards schools that are working in partnership with their local communities.

Schools First is brought to life by NAB, the Foundation for Young Australians and the Australian Council for Educational Research.

For more information, visit schoolsfirst.edu.au

SCHOOLS FIRST

fya | Schools First brought to life by nab